

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended.

Claims 2, 8, 18, 22, 29 and 30 have been amended. Claims 21 and 25 have been cancelled.

Therefore, claims 1-4, 8-20, 22-24 and 26-30 are presented for examination.

In the Office Action, claims 2, 8-10 and 18-22 have been objected to because of various informalities. Applicants submit that claims 2, 8, 18 and 22 have been amended to correct the informalities.

Further, the Office Action maintains that claims 2-4, 8-17, 27 and 28 would be allowable once the claim objections are corrected, and claims 21, 25, 29 and 30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. See Office Action at page 4, paragraphs 5 and 6.

Claims 18-20, 22-24 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Punj et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,150,358) in view of Turner (U.S. Patent No. 5,402,415). Applicants submit that the rejection has been obviated by the amendment of the claims.

For example, claims 18 and 22 have been amended to include the features of claims 21 and 25, respectively. Thus, claims 18 and 22 are in condition for allowance as indicated by the allowable subject matter in the Office Action. Moreover, claims 29 and 30 have been amended to include the features of the respective base claims 18 and 22.

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been overcome, and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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